



TO: Outreach Partners and Interested Parties

FROM: *Prescription Advantage*

Date: October 23, 2007

BULLETIN

This bulletin is one in a series of routine updates regarding Prescription Advantage . These notices are designed to inform a broad network of outreach partners and other interested parties about Plan updates affecting both current and future Plan members.

Changes to 2008 Monthly Premiums for Blue Cross Members

As of January 1, 2008, Blue Cross / Blue Shield will no t be offering a basic Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) with a premium that is less than or equal to the regional benchmark amount of \$29.17. As a result, Prescription Advantage members that currently receive assistance paying their Part D premium from Prescription Advantage and/or Medicare Extra Help, will be required to pay a portion of the monthly premium if they chose to remain in the basic Medicare drug plan offered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 2008.

The attached letter will be mailed later this week to members affected by this change.



October 2007

Dear Prescription Advantage Member:

This letter is about your prescription drug coverage for 2008. Based on information we received from Medicare, you are enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan provided by Blue Cross / Blue Shield. If you believe this information is not correct, please contact Prescription Advantage Customer Service at the number listed below.

You currently receive assistance with your monthly Medicare drug plan premium from Prescription Advantage and/or Medicare Extra Help. However, as of January 1, 2008, Blue Cross / Blue Shield will no longer offer a plan with a premium less than or equal to the amount of this assistance.

This means that beginning January 1, 2008 if you remain in your current Blue Cross/ Blue Shield plan, you will be required to pay a portion of your monthly Medicare Part D premium. If you previously had your entire premium covered by Prescription Advantage and/or Medicare Extra Help, you will be required to pay \$2.23 toward your monthly premium in 2008. If you previously paid \$20.00 toward your monthly premium, you will be required to pay \$22.23 in 2008.

Medicare will have an Open Enrollment from November 15, 2007 through December 31, 2007. If you wish to change your Medicare Part D drug plan for 2008, you may do so at that time. In early November, Prescription Advantage will send you information about all of your 2008 plan options. Please keep in mind that if you select a plan with a premium that is more than the amount Prescription Advantage covers, you will be required to pay a portion of the monthly premium.

If you need help selecting a Medicare drug plan, please contact the following organizations for assistance:

- ❖ SHINE - (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders) – Individual health insurance counseling available to all Medicare beneficiaries.
1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), press 2 or
TTY (toll free) 1-800-872-0166
www.medicareoutreach.org

- ❖ MassMedLine - A resource for prescription drug information and assistance. Pharmacists are available to assist you.

1-866-633-1617

TTY/TDD users should ask the operator to call the MassMedLine toll -free number

www.massmedline.com

- ❖ Medicare - For general assistance with the Medicare Part D benefits and the Medicare drug plans. Please look for the *Medicare and You* handbook that was sent to you in October. Contact Medicare if you did not receive it.

1-800-MEDICARE

TTY (toll free) 1-877-486-2048

www.medicare.gov

For questions or more information regarding your Prescription Advantage benefit, please contact Prescription Advantage Customer Service at 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636) or TTY for the deaf and hard of hearing at 1-877-610-0241.

Sincerely,
Prescription Advantage